



Bonus de pronunciación

Do you have problems with how to pronounce “r” in Spanish? The correct pronunciation of this specific letter has always a problem for several students who are learning Spanish. Learning how to pronounce the “r” is very important in Spanish because some Spanish words can have different meanings. Here you have some examples:

Pero (but) – Perro (dog)

Caro (expensive) – Carro (car)

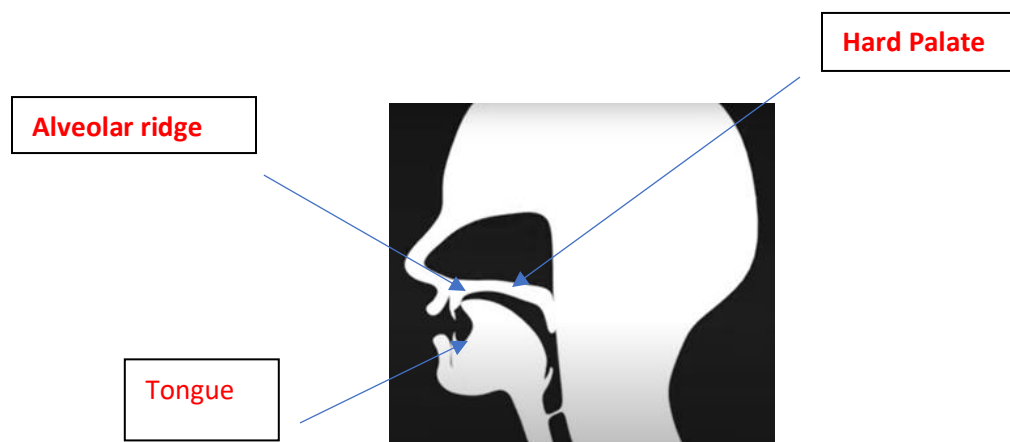
The word pairs above differ in that the first word in each pair has a simple r, while the other has a rolled r.

Let’s start with the soft “R” or like other people prefer to call it “**alveolar tap**”. This sound is very similar to the sound **t** in words like **water** and **hater** ! in the American English. Let’s see some examples.

- *Oro (gold)*
- *Barato (cheap)*
- *Pared (wall)*
- *Araña (spider)*
- *Pera (pear)*
- *Lapicero. (pen)*

In case that you are not an American speaker, do not worry because I will give you another tip. Put the tip of your tongue to your hard palate **once**. Probably you are wondering what your hard palate is but your hard palate is essentially the roof of your mouth

If you run your tongue over the area behind your front teeth, you should feel a small bump. This small bump is also named the “**alveolar ridge**” and the alveolar ridge is where the roof of your mouth begins. If you want to pronounce simple r in Spanish, you should touch your tongue to the area just behind the alveolar ridge.

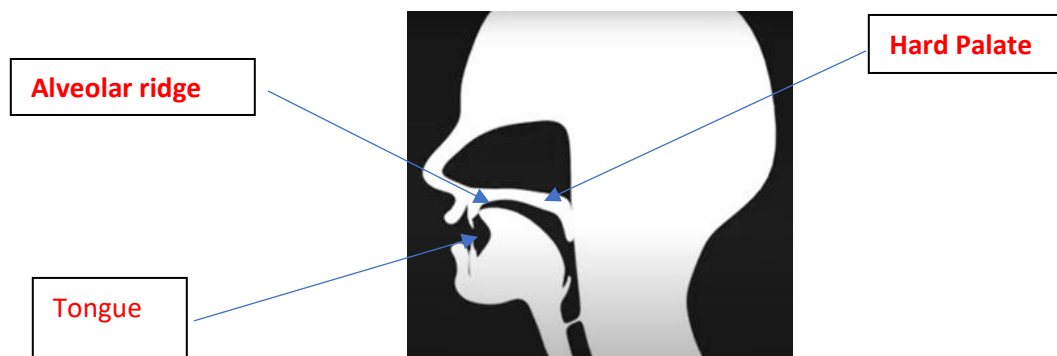




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The rolled “r” sound in Spanish

You should touch the tip of your tongue to your hard palate **more than once, you have to do this movement quickly**. This multiple movement is where the term *rolling your r's* is from - the multiple taps of your tongue against the roof of the mouth will make it feel like you are rolling your tongue around



When should you roll the r?

First you can roll the *r*, to pronounce all the words containing two written letter *r*'s like:

- *Carro* (car)
- *Borracho* (drunk)
- *Guitarra* (guitar)
- *Tierra* (earth)

or the single written letter *r* when it occurs at the beginning of a word, like:

- *Rojo* (red)
- *Rosa* (rose)
- *Recordar* (to remember)
- *Roncar* (to snort)
- *Rana* (frog)

It is not about knowing a trick; it is about practicing everyday and develop this skill. All the skills can be learned. Feel the movements of your tongue.